

Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



HF 561 – Recorded Documents Tiered Flat Fees (LSB1744HV.1)

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Fiscal Note Version – Revised

Description

House File 561 requires county recorders to participate in the Iowa Land Records information system, which provides online electronic access to county land records. The Bill requires that participation in the Iowa Land Records system be established by an Iowa Code chapter 28E agreement between all Iowa counties. The Bill increases the fee collected by a county recorder and used for maintaining the Iowa Land Records system from \$1 to \$2. The Bill also strikes language that authorizes the collection of additional fees related to the cost of electronic submission of documents. The Bill specifies that provisions of the statute are subject to legislative review at least every five years.

Background

All 99 counties currently participate in the Iowa Land Records information system. The recording fee for land records filed with a county is currently \$7 for the first page and \$5 per subsequent page. Of the fee for the first page, \$1 goes to the county recorder, \$1 goes to Iowa Land Records, and \$5 goes to the county general fund. The fee for subsequent pages goes to the county general fund.

The number of documents filed has been decreasing. Annual revenue to Iowa Land Records from the \$1 fee has decreased from \$800,000 in FY 2004 to an estimated \$575,000 in FY 2014 and FY 2015.

An additional fee of \$1.50 per document is charged on documents filed electronically. In FY 2014, 119,000 documents were filed electronically, generating revenue for Iowa Land Records of \$179,000.

Assumption

The number of land records filed annually will remain at 575,000 documents. Of those, 119,000 documents will be filed electronically.

Fiscal Impact

This Bill will not affect State General Fund revenues or expenditures. The statewide impact to local entities (counties) is an increase in annual expenditures to Iowa Land Records of \$396,000 annually. These expenditures will be offset by the \$1 increase in the land record filing fee and the elimination of the \$1.50 fee for electronically submitted documents.

Source

Iowa Land Records

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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